
Comments Summary: MT County Health Profiles Survey, January-March 2002

Overall, respondents were very satisfied with the *Montana County Health Profiles* (see the accompanying frequency tables). In all sections of the Profiles, more than 90% of respondents indicated the Profiles provide the information they need in a format that is usable.

1. Do you ever use the *Montana County Health Profiles*?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, why not? (n = 19)

Responses fell primarily in two categories. Ten respondents were not aware of the Profiles, while five respondents felt the Profiles were not applicable to their job and/or program.

2. For what purpose(s) do you use the *Montana County Health Profiles* (mark all that apply)?

☐ Creating policy
☐ Writing grants
☐ Talking to elected officials/policy makers
☐ Other

If “Other”, please describe: (n = 71)

Two categories describe the majority of "other" responses: as a "General Information/Data Source" (n = 30) and for "Community Assessment / Program Planning / Development" (n = 26). The following are examples of typical responses in these categories:

"Responding to information requests. Quick reference to county vital and demographics."
"Interesting info."
"Good data reference."
"Program development."
"Defining community health priorities."
"Strategic planning."
"Setting outcomes and planning goals."

3. How useful are they for your purpose(s)?

☐ Very useful ☐ Useful ☐ Sort of useful ☐ Not useful at all

Comments: (n = 8)

Although few comments were received here, those responding indicated the Profiles provide “one neat package” of information about the counties (n = 2). It is important, however, for the information to be “accurate and up-to-date” (n = 2).

4. Please complete this statement: “My primary use of the *Montana County Health Profiles* relates to my position(s) with/as...” (mark all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> MT DPHHS	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian/Tribal Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Other MT State agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Communities
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Public Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Health Clinic/Community Health Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Board of Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital
<input type="checkbox"/> Elected official	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>(n = 13) Four non-profit health</u>

organizations; three combined facilities (hospital, nursing home, home health, assisted living); two health associations/foundations; two education agency/university; one research staff; one consultant.

5. Is the *Data Definitions* section useful and understandable (*see attached copy*)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, please explain: (n = 4)

Two respondents commented the *Data Definitions* section is very important and necessary for accurate interpretation of the data presented in the MT County Health Profiles. The other two respondents felt this section could be more "user friendly" with less "bureaucrat-eze".

6. Which of the following formats do you prefer for the *Montana County Health Profiles*?

☐ Bound booklet
☐ Web-based
☐ Both
☐ Other

If “Other”, please identify: (n = 6)

Three respondents commented they preferred having both formats available. Three suggestions were offered: providing wallet cards, putting the Profiles on a CD, and including a "search" function in the web-based version.

The following questions refer to individual sections of the *Profiles* data pages

County Overview (BLUE Section)

1. Is the information in this section useful? Is the right information included for your purposes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, please identify what/how you would change: (n = 21)

Areas with more than one response focused on the redundancy of some information (n = 4) or including more economic information (n = 3), for example, the top 2-3 sources of income.

2. Is the information in this section in a useable format?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, what/how would you change? (n = 4)

Individual responses included delineating reservation areas impacted, providing a section on comparable counties, or referencing a regional structure.

Demographics (RED Section)

1. Are the data in this section useful? Are the right data included for your purposes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, please identify what you would add or delete: (n = 18)

Respondents would like to see the following:

- # or % uninsured (n = 3)
- Different poverty breakdowns (n = 5)
- Racial / tribal demographics (n = 3)
- More frequent updates (n = 2)

2. Are the data in this section in a useable format?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, what/how would you change? (n = 11)

More detail, especially more detailed age breakdowns (n = 6).

Health Status Indicators (GREEN Section)

1. Are the data in this section useful? Are the right data included for your purposes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, please identify what you would add or delete: (n = 25)

Areas with more than one response included:

- Chronic disease and health risk incidence (n = 4)
- Heart disease death rates (n = 2) and/or incidence (n = 1)
- Mental health indicators (n = 2)
- Immunizations (3 different suggestions)
- Four different requests in the general area of pregnancy and maternal/child health.

2. Are the data in this section in a useable format?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, what/how would you change? (n = 11)

Two comments related to the difficulty some users might have in interpreting per 100,000 rates.

Two responses requesting more detail - age and race breakdowns.

Health Resource Assessment (YELLOW Section)

1. Are the data in this section useful? Are the right data included for your purposes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, please identify what you would add or delete: (n = 20)

Three responses requested the addition of information about dentists. Two respondents would like to see IHS/Tribal Health personnel included. One response indicated the need for a tabulation of mental health resources.

2. Are the data in this section in a useable format?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “No”, what/how would you change? (n = 6)

Two respondents indicated it is not useful to compare this information to the state overall.

Two final questions....

1. Is there a particular set of health-related data **not currently included** you would like to see in future editions of the *Montana County Health Profiles*?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “Yes”, please identify: (n = 69)

Comments fell under the primary headings of :

- Health insurance/uninsured (n = 8)
- Demographic detail (n = 7)
- Substance abuse (n = 6)
- Mental health (n = 4)
- Elderly (n = 4)
- Health resources (n = 10): provider shortages (3)
- Prevention / preventive health behaviors (n = 3)
- Public health infrastructure (2)
- Links to other data (2)

- Health indicator data (n = 14): e.g., chronic diseases, risk behaviors
- Teen data (4)
- Miscellaneous (5).

Most category responses were varied; within a category, there were not more than two comments that were essentially the same. The one exception were requests for demographic detail, particularly Native American (n = 4).

2. Are there any other changes you would like to see in the *Montana County Health Profiles*?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If “Yes”, please describe: (n = 28)

Comments were grouped into the following categories:

- Updated, current information (n = 8)
- Format suggestions (n = 6)
- Health resource data detail (n = 5)
- Comparison data (n = 4)
- Reservation data (n = 2)
- Web ideas (n = 2)
- Distribution (n = 1)
- Compliments & thank you's (n = 3)

The most frequently stressed point in these comments was the desire to have regular updates and current information.